



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell
Commissioner of Education

DATE: May 2, 2016

SUBJECT: Kindergarten Assessment

Section 4 of Public Act 14-39 and Section 51 of Public Act 15-244 require the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to develop and the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to implement a kindergarten assessment. This assessment is designed to measure the child's level of preparedness for kindergarten by providing valid and reliable information on a child across the essential domains of school readiness.

In 2013, the OEC joined a consortium with six other states to enhance a kindergarten entry assessment that was originally developed by the states of Maryland and Ohio. The CSDE and local practitioners from Connecticut school districts have partnered with the OEC and the consortium in the assessment development process. Most recently, in the fall of 2015, 62 kindergarten teachers from 37 schools in 18 Connecticut districts piloted the assessment with a total of 264 students.

Given the many new initiatives in K-12 public education that are still being fully implemented (e.g., new curriculum and standards, new assessments, educator evaluation and support, next generation accountability), the CSDE will not expect school districts to participate in the consortium-wide field test that is planned for 2016-17.

Instead, the CSDE will use 2016-17 as a planning year for the new assessment. It will work closely with districts to streamline the training expectations and the test administration platform with an eye to increasing flexibility and reducing the implementation burden for Connecticut school districts. In the coming months, the CSDE will provide greater detail about the training plan and the testing process.

Please note that for 2016-17, districts must continue to administer and report data from the legacy kindergarten entrance inventory. If there are any questions, please contact Michelle Rosado at michelle.Rosado@ct.gov or 860-713-6748.

Thank you.